

WE CLAIM:

- 1 1. A slider for a disk drive, the slider comprising:
 - 2 a slider body including a slider body outer surface;
 - 3 an inductive write head including main and return poles; and
 - 4 a slider ground pad disposed at the slider body outer surface, the ground pad in
 - 5 electrical communication with the main and return poles for electrically grounding the
 - 6 main and return poles.
- 1 2. The slider of Claim 1 wherein the main and return poles are electrically connected.
- 1 3. The slider of Claim 1 wherein the slider ground pad is electrically connected to the main
- 2 pole, the slider ground pad is in electrical communication with the return pole through the main
- 3 pole.
- 1 4. The slider of Claim 1 further includes a first thin film resistor layer disposed upon the
- 2 main pole towards the slider body outer surface, the slider ground pad is disposed in electrical
- 3 communication with the first thin film resistor layer, the slider ground pad is in electrical
- 4 communication with the return pole through the main pole.
- 1 5. The slider of Claim 1 further includes a read head having top and bottom shields, the top
- 2 shield is disposed adjacent the return pole, the slider ground pad is disposed in electrical
- 3 communication with the top and bottom shields.
- 1 6. The slider of Claim 5 wherein the slider ground pad is disposed in electrical
- 2 communication with the top and bottom shields through the main and return poles.
- 1 7. The slider of Claim 6 wherein the return pole is electrically connected to the top shield.
- 1 8. The slider of Claim 5 wherein the read head includes a second thin film resistor layer
- 2 disposed between the top and bottom shields, the top shield is electrically connected to the

3 bottom shield through the second thin film resistor layer, the slider ground pad is disposed in
4 electrical communication with the bottom shield through the top shield.

1 9. The slider of Claim 5 further includes a ground via formed in the slider body, the ground
2 via is disposed in electrical communication with the slider ground pad and the top and bottom
3 shields, the main and return poles are in electrical communication with the slider ground pad
4 through the top and bottom shields.

- 1 10. A disk drive comprising:
 - 2 a disk drive base;
 - 3 an actuator arm rotatably coupled to the disk drive base; and
 - 4 a slider distally coupled to the actuator arm, the slider including:
 - 5 a slider body including a slider body outer surface;
 - 6 an inductive write head including main and return poles; and
 - 7 a slider ground pad disposed at the slider body outer surface, the slider
 - 8 ground pad in electrical communication with the main and return poles for
 - 9 electrically grounding the main and return poles.
- 10 11. The disk drive of Claim 10 wherein the slider ground pad is electrically connected to the
- 11 actuator arm.

- 1 12. A slider for a disk drive, the slider comprising:
 - 2 a slider body having a slider body outer surface;
 - 3 a read head having top and bottom shields; and
 - 4 a slider ground pad disposed at the slider body outer surface, the slider ground pad in electrical communication with the top and bottom shields for electrically grounding the top and bottom shields.
- 1 13. The slider of Claim 12 wherein the top and bottom shields are electrically connected.
- 1 14. The slider of Claim 12 wherein the slider ground pad is electrically connected to the top shield, the slider ground pad is in electrical communication with the bottom shield through the top shield.
- 1 15. The slider of Claim 12 further includes an inductive write head having main and return poles, the return pole is disposed adjacent the top shield, the slider ground pad is disposed in electrical communication with the main and return poles.
- 1 16. The slider of Claim 15 further includes a first thin film resistor layer disposed upon the main pole towards the slider body outer surface, the slider ground pad is disposed in electrical communication with the first thin film resistor layer, the slider ground pad is in electrical communication with the return pole through the main pole.
- 1 17. The slider of Claim 15 wherein the slider ground pad is disposed in electrical communication with the top and bottom shields through the main and return poles.
- 1 18. The slider of Claim 15 wherein the return pole is electrically connected to the top shield.
- 1 19. The slider of Claim 15 wherein the read head includes a second thin film resistor layer disposed between the top and bottom shields, the top shield is electrically connected to the bottom shield through the second thin film resistor layer, the slider ground pad is disposed in

4 electrical communication with the bottom shield through the top shield.

1 20. The slider of Claim 15 further includes a ground via formed in the slider body, the ground
2 via is disposed in electrical communication with the slider ground pad and the top and bottom
3 shields, the main and return poles are in electrical communication with the slider ground pad
4 through the top and bottom shields.

- 1 21. A disk drive comprising:
 - 2 a disk drive base;
 - 3 an actuator arm rotatably coupled to the disk drive base; and
 - 4 a slider distally attached to the actuator arm, the slider including:
 - 5 a slider body including a slider body outer surface;
 - 6 a read head having top and bottom shields; and
 - 7 a slider ground pad disposed at the slider body outer surface, the slider
 - 8 ground pad in electrical communication with the top and bottom shields for
 - 9 electrically grounding the top and bottom shields.
- 10 22. The disk drive of Claim 21 wherein the slider ground pad is electrically connected to the
- 11 actuator arm.